

California, and the tornadoes that affected several Southern States. From the mountains of Peru to the lowlands of Bangladesh, the American Red Cross and its partners helped to provide relief abroad to those affected by natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies.

The American Red Cross also helps provide vital assistance by organizing blood drives, teaching health and safety programs, and providing lifesaving supplies. By compassionately supporting our men and women in uniform and their families, it helps to lift the spirits of our wounded warriors. During this month, we send our heartfelt gratitude to the volunteers and staff of the American Red Cross.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America and Honorary Chairman of the American Red Cross, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2008 as American Red Cross Month. I commend the dedicated efforts of the American Red Cross, and I encourage all Americans to help make our world a better place by volunteering their time, energy, and talents for others.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:58 a.m., February 29, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 3.

Proclamation 8222—Save Your Vision Week, 2008

February 28, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Early diagnosis and proper treatment of eye disease can help preserve the gift of

sight. During Save Your Vision Week, we encourage Americans to receive routine vision screenings and to understand the importance of keeping their eyes healthy and safe.

Today, millions of Americans live with some form of eye disease, such as glaucoma, corneal disease, macular degeneration, or diabetic eye disease. Individuals can help to avoid these diseases and maintain healthy eyes by following good eating habits, using appropriate protective eyewear, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Citizens should discuss with their physician the dangers of eye disease and see that their children are tested before their first year of school.

My Administration will continue to seek better ways to prevent and treat eye diseases. The National Eye Institute's website, www.nei.nih.gov, provides many resources to help Americans find information on eye disease and on where to find local eye-care professionals. By being proactive, Americans can help prevent vision loss and live healthier lives.

The Congress, by joint resolution approved December 30, 1963, as amended (77 Stat. 629; 36 U.S.C. 138), has authorized and requested the President to proclaim the first week in March of each year as "Save Your Vision Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim March 2 through March 8, 2008, as Save Your Vision Week. I encourage all Americans to learn more about eye care and eye safety and to take measures to help ensure a lifetime of healthy vision.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 3.

**Memorandum on Waiver of
Restriction on Providing Funds to
the Palestinian Authority**

February 28, 2008

Presidential Determination No. 2008–13

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver of Restriction on Providing
Funds to the Palestinian Authority

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 650(b) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008 (Division J, Public Law 110–161) (the “Act”), I hereby certify that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to waive the provisions of section 650(a) of the Act, in order to provide funds appropriated to carry out chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, to the Palestinian Authority.

You are directed to transmit this determination to the Congress, with a report pursuant to section 650(d) of the Act, and to publish the determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting the Denmark-United
States Social Security Agreement**

February 28, 2008

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95–216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1)), I transmit herewith the Agreement Between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Denmark on Social Security, which consists of two separate instruments: a principal agreement and an administrative arrangement. The agreement was signed at Copenhagen on June 13, 2007.

The United States-Denmark Agreement is similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with Australia,

Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the loss of benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries. The United States-Denmark Agreement contains all provisions mandated by section 233 and other provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4).

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report prepared by the Social Security Administration explaining the key points of the Agreement, along with a paragraph-by-paragraph explanation of the provisions of the principal agreement and the related administrative arrangement. Attached to this report is the report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, which describes the effect of the Agreement on income and expenditures of the U.S. Social Security program and the number of individuals affected by the Agreement.

I commend to the Congress the United States-Denmark Social Security Agreement and related documents.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 28, 2008.

**Remarks Following a Meeting With
Secretary General Jakob Gijssbert
“Jaap” de Hoop Scheffer of the
North Atlantic Treaty Organization**

February 29, 2008

President Bush. It’s my honor to welcome the Secretary General of NATO back to the Oval Office. Last time I was with the Secretary General, I was trying to keep up with him on my mountain bike. He is a dear friend and a strong leader.

I appreciate the—Jaap, your helping to transform NATO so it deals with the threats